

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7398

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNISO APER US

SUBJECT: UNIDO - SENIOR POSTS

REF: VIENNA 6969

SUMMARY: DISCUSSION WITH HOLMES (UNIDO CHIEF OF PERSONNEL SERVICES) INDICATES THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE DELAY IN APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR ISI DIVISION WHICH ABDEL-RAHMAN HAS TIED TO QUESTION OF DEPUTY EX. DIRECTOR. GIVEN ACABQ REACTION TO PROPOSAL FOR ASG DEPUTY POST, WE MADE CLEAR TO HOLMES US EXPECTED CONTINUE TO HOLD TWO D-2 UNIDO POSITIONS. ACTION REQUESTED: DEP CONSIDER MAKING US POSITION ON THIS POINT CLEAR TO A-R (AND TO UNNY) IN WRITING AND PREPARE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR SECOND D-2 POST. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL ON HOLMES SEPT 6 WE HAD EXTENDED DISCUSSION, INTER ALIA, OF STATE OF PLAY ON UNIDO SENIOR POSTS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF SEVERAL PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH ABDEL-RAHMAN.

2. RE DIRECTOR ISI DIVISION, HOLMES TOLD US HE HAD RECENTLY MADE INTENSIVE ANALYSIS OF EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OFFERED BY NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY MISSION, WITH A VIEW TO PUSHING ABDEL-RAHMAN TO MOVE ON QUESTION OF STEPANIK'S SUCCESSOR. WHEN RESULTS OF ANALYSIS PLACED BEFORE ABDEL-RAHMAN, LATTER (TO HOLMES ASSERTED SURPRISE) TOOK THE POSITION THAT HE WOULD NOT

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BE ABLE TO MAKE DECISION ON FILLING THIS D-2 POST UNTIL PICTURE

WITH RESPECT TO DEPUTY EX DIR POST FURTHER CLARIFIED; A-R REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT WHILE US DELEGATION HAD ADVOCATED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST AND HAD SUBMITTED NOMINEE, US HAD BEEN PARTY TO ACABQ DEFERRAL OF POST'S CREATION LAST DECEMBER -- THIS A-R REPORTEDLY REGARDED AS CLEAR INDICATION US NOT REALLY DESIROUS OF POST'S ESTABLISHMENT. (AS NOTED BELOW, BELOW, WHILE WE DON'T DOUBT A-R SAID THIS, WE QUESTION HIS MOTIVES.) HOLMES INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT AT NO TIME DURING DISCUSSION WAS THERE SUGGESTION THAT ANY OTHER NATIONALITY BE APPOINTED AS ISI DIRECTOR, BUT VOICED CONCERN AT THE PROSPECT OF DIVISION BEING WITHOUT A DIRECTOR FOR AN UNDETERMINED PERIOD.

3. RE DIRECTOR DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION, HOLMES NOTED THAT BARBOSA (ACTING DIRECTOR) WAS WORKING "AS THOUGH HE EXPECTED TO BE CONFIRMED AS DIVISION DIRECTOR." HOLMES ALSO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME QUARTERS HAVE POINTED TO PROBLEM OF UNIDO HAVING TWO DIVISION DIRECTORS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND, THEREFORE, THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR QUIJANO-CABALLERO'S POSITION OF BARBOSA BEING CONFIRMED AS DIRECTOR.

4. DISCUSSION WITH HOLMES INCLUDED EXAMINATION OF MOST RECENT ACABQ COMMENTS ON PROPOSED ASG DEPUTY EX DIR POST AND IMPLICATIONS THEREOF. HOLMES' READING WAS THAT ACABQ POSITION MAKES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT 28TH GA WILL TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION ON SYG'S PROPOSAL. (ABDEL-RAHMAN MOST LIKELY AWARE OF ACABQ POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WHEN HE TIED ISI APPOINTMENT TO DEPUTY EX DIR POST, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT REAL EXPLANATION FOR DELAY IN APPOINTING STEPANEK SUCCESSOR LIES ELSEWHERE.) IN THIS CONNECTION, MAY BE NOTED THAT, DURING RECENT "EMERGENCY MEETING" OF UNIDO SENIOR OFFICERS CALLED BY ABDEL-RAHMAN TO INFORM THEM OF CERTAIN CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION OF EXDIRECTOR'S OFFICE, HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A DEPUTY BECOMING PART OF THE PICTURE IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE AND, IN FACT, LAID OUT AN ARRANGEMENT (SEE SEPTTEL) WHICH EMPHASIZES DIRECT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ABDEL-RAHMAN AND DIVISION DIRECTORS AND THEIR DEPUTIES.

5. WE USED OCCASION OF MEETING WITH HOLMES TO EMPHASIZE THAT, WITH PROSPECT OF DEPUTY EX DIRECTOR POST NOW HIGHLY UNCERTAIN, US DEFINITELY EXPECTED THAT TWO D-2 POSITIONS WOULD CONTINUE CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BE HELD BY AMERICANS AND THAT WE ASSUMED MISSION WOULD BE SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS FOR SECOND D-2 POST SHORTLY. IN THIS REGARD HOLMES INDICATED THAT SENIOR ADVISOR POST FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY LURIE AND ERIC WARD WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE REVIEWED IN ITS OLD FORM. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO GROWING PRESSURE FROM JAPAN FOR SENIOR UNIDO POST AND SPECULATED THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE NEAR FUTURE PRC WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE TAKEN CARE OF.

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE WE FEEL MISSION SHOULD MAKE
CLEAR TO ABDEL-RAHMAN IN WRITING THAT US FULLY EXPECTS TO
MAINTAIN TWO D-2 POSTS IN ABSENCE OF MOVEMENT ON DEPUTY EX
DIRECTOR AND TTHAT WE SHALL BE SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS FOR FORMER
BIRCKHEAD POST SHORTLY. SIMILAR COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE
MDE TO DAVIDSON. OUR PRESENT GUESS IS THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT
TO BRING ABDEL-RAHMAN TO ACCEPT THIS POSITION AND THAT TO
DO SO WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE VIGOROUS ACTION BY US IN
NEW YORK AS WELL. STIBRAVY

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